

is a continuation of application Serial No. 07/628,516, filed December 17, 1990, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Add the following new claims:

21. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising an antigen, which antigen has an amino acid sequence that shares at least 90% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded by the post-transfusional non-A non-B hepatitis (PT-NANBH) virus genome and which is encoded ^{by} ~~in~~ the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20 or ~~in~~ bases 308-2116 of the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:21 or ~~in~~ ^{by} the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:22.

22. (New) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 21, wherein said amino acid sequence shares at least 90% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded ^{by} ~~in~~ the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

23. (New) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 21, wherein said amino acid sequence shares at least 95%

C sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded ^{by} in the nucleotide sequence ^{of} ~~set forth in~~ SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

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24. (New) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 23, wherein said amino acid sequence shares at least 98% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded ^{by} in the nucleotide sequence ^{of} ~~set forth in~~ SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

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25. (New) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 24, wherein said amino acid sequence shares at least 95% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded ^{by} in the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20 or ~~in~~ bases 308-2116 of the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:21 or ^{by} ~~in~~ the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{by} SEQ ID NO:22.

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26. (New) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 25, wherein said amino acid sequence shares at least 98%

C sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded ^{by} in the

C nucleotide sequence ^{of} ~~set forth in~~ SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ

C ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20 or ~~in~~ bases 308-2116 of the nucleotide

C sequence ^{of} ~~set forth in~~ SEQ ID NO:21 or ^{by} ~~in~~ the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:22.

~~27~~ (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide
having the amino acid sequence encoded ^{by} ~~in~~ the nucleotide
sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, or
~~in~~ bases 308-504 of the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID
NO:18, or ^{by} ~~in~~ the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:19
or SEQ ID NO:20, or ~~in~~ bases 308-2116 of the nucleotide sequence
~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:21 or ^{by} ~~in~~ the nucleotide sequence ~~set~~
~~forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:22.

~~28~~ (New) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim
~~18~~, wherein said polypeptide has the amino acid sequence encoded
~~in~~ ^{by} the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID
NO:4, or SEQ ID NO:5.

~~29~~ (New) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim ~~28~~
wherein said polypeptide has the amino acid sequence encoded ^{by} ~~in~~
the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

~~30~~ (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide
comprising an antigen having an amino acid sequence that shares
at least 98% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence
encoded ^{by} ~~in~~ the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{by} SEQ ID NO:5.

~~31~~ (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide
comprising an antigen having an amino acid sequence that shares

at least 98% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence

C encoded ^{by} in the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:18 from bases 308-504.

C ¹²~~32~~. (New) An isolated nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ ^{of} SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, bases 308-504 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ NO:18, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20, bases 308-2116 of the nucleotide sequence *C* of SEQ ID NO:21 or ~~the~~ ^{of} the nucleotide sequence ~~set forth in~~ SEQ ID NO:22.

¹³~~33~~. (New) The isolated nucleic acid according to any one of claims ~~21, 27, 30, 31, and 32~~ ^{1, 7, 10, 11, 12} wherein said nucleic acid is DNA.

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concl'd. ¹⁴~~34~~. (New) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims ~~21, 27, 30, 31 and 32~~ ^{1, 7, 10, 11, 12}.

¹⁵~~35~~. (New) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim ~~34~~ ⁴.

¹⁶~~36~~. (New) A process for preparing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell according to claim ~~35~~ ¹⁵ under conditions so that said nucleic acid is expressed and said polypeptide is thereby produced.